

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A detergent tablet consisting of at least three separate layers, two outer layers being separated by a middle layer, wherein:

(i) the first outer layer comprises at least a first compound – detergent agent and/or bleaching agent – which can react chemically with at least a second compound – detergent agent and/or bleaching activator – contained in the second outer layer, and

(ii) the middle layer is chemically neutral toward the compounds of the outer layers, and

(iii) the reactive compounds of the outer layers react with each other when the tablet is immersed in aqueous medium to form at least a third compound with enhanced detergent and/or bleaching properties.

2. (Original) The detergent tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the middle layer comprises at least one effervescent agent, and/or at least one bursting agent, such that when the tablet is immersed in an aqueous medium, said middle layer is completely dissolved before the outer layers.

3. (Currently Amended) The tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 and 2,~~ wherein the outer layers comprise at least one effervescent agent.

4. (Currently Amended) The tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ which comprises at least one of the following compounds: a binary or ternary surfactant

system, a bleaching system with a persalt and an activator, a complexing system, an effervescent system, a pH regulator, additives selected from fragrances, dyes, pelleting aids, antibacterial agents, or a combination of these compounds.

5. (Original) The tablet as claimed in claim 4, wherein the bleaching agents, on the one hand, and the nonionic surfactants and fragrances, on the other hand, are confined to separate and nonadjacent outer layers, separated by a middle layer which is chemically inert toward the compounds of the two outer layers.

6. (Currently Amended) The tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the percentage of surfactants by weight of tablet is of the order of 0.1 to 30%, preferably 0.1 to 10%.

7. (Currently Amended) The tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.

8. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 2, wherein the outer layers comprise at least one effervescent agent.

9. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 2, which comprises at least one of the following compounds: a binary or ternary surfactant system, a bleaching system with a persalt

and an activator, a complexing system, an effervescent system, a pH regulator, additives selected from fragrances, dyes, pelleting aids, antibacterial agents, or a combination of these compounds.

10. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 3, which comprises at least one of the following compounds: a binary or ternary surfactant system, a bleaching system with a persalt and an activator, a complexing system, an effervescent system, a pH regulator, additives selected from fragrances, dyes, pelleting aids, antibacterial agents, or a combination of these compounds.

11. (New) The tablet as claimed in 2, wherein the percentage of surfactants by weight of tablet is of the order of 0.1 to 30%, preferably 0.1 to 10%.

12. (New) The tablet as claimed in 3, wherein the percentage of surfactants by weight of tablet is of the order of 0.1 to 30%, preferably 0.1 to 10%.

13. (New) The tablet as claimed in 4, wherein the percentage of surfactants by weight of tablet is of the order of 0.1 to 30%, preferably 0.1 to 10%.

14. (New) The tablet as claimed in 5, wherein the percentage of surfactants by weight of tablet is of the order of 0.1 to 30%, preferably 0.1 to 10%.

15. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or

bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.

16. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.

17. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.

18. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.

19. (New) The tablet as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first outer layer comprises at least one persalt, perborate or percarbonate, the second outer layer comprises at least one bleaching activator of the citric acid type, and the third compound with detergents and/or

bleaching properties is an activated bleaching agent obtained by reaction of the persalt with the bleaching activator during dissolution of the tablet.